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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To exempt Federal employees and contractors that are critical infrastructure workers from Federal COVID–19 vaccination mandates, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NEWHOUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To exempt Federal employees and contractors that are critical infrastructure workers from Federal COVID–19 vaccination mandates, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Exemptions for Critical  
5       Workers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION TO COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATES FOR**  
2 **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FEDERAL EM-**  
3 **PLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS.**

4 (a) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
6 law, rule, or regulation, including Executive Order  
7 14043 (86 Fed. Reg. 50989; relating to requiring  
8 coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination for Federal  
9 employees), any Federal employee that is a critical  
10 infrastructure worker is exempt from any Federal  
11 mandate requiring such Federal employee to receive  
12 a COVID-19 vaccination.

13 (2) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—No  
14 adverse action (including a suspension, furlough, re-  
15 moval, or reduction in pay or grade) may be taken  
16 against any Federal employee on the basis of such  
17 Federal employee not receiving a COVID-19 vac-  
18 cination pursuant to paragraph (1).

19 (3) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE DEFINED.—In this  
20 subsection, the term “Federal employee” has the  
21 meaning given the term “employee” in section 2105  
22 of title 5, United States Code, and includes an indi-  
23 vidual who is—

24 (A) an officer or employee of the United  
25 States Postal Service or of the Postal Regu-  
26 latory Commission; and

1 (B) an employee appointed under chapter  
2 73 or 74 of title 38, United States Code, not-  
3 withstanding section 7425(b) of such title.

4 (b) FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.—Any contract entered  
5 into by the Federal Government that requires any em-  
6 ployee or individual described under that contract, or any  
7 subcontract (at any tier), to receive a COVID–19 vaccina-  
8 tion shall include—

9 (1) an exemption from such requirement for  
10 any such employee or individual who is a critical in-  
11 frastructure worker;

12 (2) a requirement that such exemption be incor-  
13 porated into each lower-tier subcontract, if any; and

14 (3) a requirement that the contractor may not  
15 retaliate against any employee on the basis of such  
16 employee not receiving a COVID–19 vaccination  
17 under such exemption.

18 (c) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKER DE-  
19 FINED.—In this Act, the term “critical infrastructure  
20 worker” means an essential critical infrastructure worker  
21 identified in the guidance from the Director of the Cyber-  
22 security and Infrastructure Agency entitled “Guidance on  
23 the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring  
24 Community and National Resilience In COVID–19 Re-  
25 sponse”, dated August 5, 2021, or any successor guidance.